

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05

OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /055 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TB - FJTATU:MFG

APPROVED BY EA/TB - JAKLEMSTINE

EA/P - AROSEN (DRAFT)

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O 272104Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, PINS

SUBJECT: THANOM'S RETURN

REF: A. BANGKOK 20066; B. BANGKOK 20104

1. NO QUESTIONS PERTAINING THANOM'S RETURN WERE RAISED DURING DECEMBER 27 NOON PRESS BRIEFING.
2. FOLLOWING ARE QS AND AS PREPARED FOR PRESS BRIEFING AND SUBSEQUENTLY USED AS BACKGROUND FOR INQUIRIES DIRECTED TO EA/P BY INDIVIDUAL MEDIA AGENCIES.
3. Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM WIRE SERVICE REPORTS THAT FORMER THAI PRIME MINISTER THANOM HAS RETURNED TO THAILAND?

A: WE HAVE SEEN THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THANOM AND SOME OF HIS FAMILY ARRIVED IN BANGKOK EARLY THIS MORNING.

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Q: SINCE THANOM HAS BEEN RESIDING IN BOSTON SINCE HE WAS THROWN OUT LAST YEAR, COULD NOT THE USG HAVE PREVENTED HIM FROM LEAVING?

A: THANOM CAME TO THE US WITH VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING A VALID VISITOR'S VISA. HE IS FREE TO TRAVEL AS HE WISHES. WE HAD NO BASIS FOR RESTRAINING HIS MOVEMENTS.

Q: HAS HE BEEN ARRESTED BY THE THAI GOVERNMENT?

A: THE THAI GOVERNMENT A FEW HOURS AGO ORDERED THE ARREST OF THANOM.

Q: WHAT IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STABILITY OF THAILAND DO YOU SEE IN THANOM'S RETURN?

A: THIS IS A MATTER CONCERNING THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THAILAND ON WHICH I WOULD NOT CARE TO COMMENT OR SPECULATE.

Q: HOW WAS THANOM ABLE TO STAY SO LONG IN THE US?

A: HE RECEIVED EXTENSIONS PERMITTING HIM TO REMAIN FOR ADDITIONAL PERIODS.

Q: CAN HE RETURN TO THE US?

A: YES, ASSUMING HIS TRAVEL DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID.

Q: DID WE KNOW THAT THANOM LEFT THE US TO RETURN TO THAILAND?

A: WE HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF MARSHAL THANOM'S DEPARTURE FROM THE US. BROWN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE282484
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FJTATU:MFG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740376-0242
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974127/aaaaafrh.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 74 BANGKOK 20066, 74 BANGKOK 20104
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Aug-2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THANOM'S RETURN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, TH, (KITTIKACHON, THANOM)
To: BANGKOK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005